



For more information or to request a starter kit, please contact:

- A fun, educational, and supportive program for clients;
- Easy to implement;
- Low cost- requires minimal staff, resources, and space;
- A great program for agencies who want to provide a range of risk reduction options to drug-using populations.

SHIELD is:

If your agency serves adults who are former or current drug users (HIV-negative or HIV positive), then SHIELD is right for you!

Self-Help In Eliminating Life-threatening Diseases (SHIELD)

A 6-session, small group intervention that trains former and current drug users to be Peer Educators who conduct outreach with their peers by sharing HIV risk reduction information. The session topics are:

Session 1: Introduction to the Peer Educator role and Peer Outreach

Session 2: Peer Educator Communication skills (PEER)

Session 3: Reducing sexual risk behavior-Part 1

Session 4: Reducing sexual risk behavior-Part 2

Session 5: Reducing injection drug use risk behavior

Session 6: Graduation and sustainability of Peer Outreach

Each session includes interactive activities like discussions, games, demonstrations, risk ladders, group problem-solving scenarios, and role-plays.

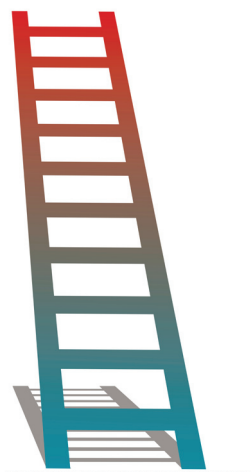
Peer Educators

Training drug users to be Peer Educators is a way to:

- Extend your agencies' reach beyond the clients who walk through your door;
- Get HIV prevention information to hard-to-reach individuals who don't access traditional services;
- Partner with drug users in the HIV prevention effort.

In the SHIELD sessions, Peer Educators learn:

- Communication skills to conduct peer outreach;
- Safer injection skills;
- Safer sex skills.



Benefits of SHIELD

After completing the 6-session intervention, Peer Educators:

- Obtain resources and skills for personal risk reduction;
- Receive a certificate of completion;
- Reduce their risky sex and injection behaviors

Peer Educators have reported many benefits of participating in SHIELD including:

- Learning new information and getting risk reduction materials that they can use to be safer;
- Gaining pride in being part of the solution rather than the problem in the fight against HIV in their community;
- Having increased self-esteem; and
- Receiving respect from family and friends.